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Translations and Reprints from Original
Historical Documents.

No. 1.—Inducements and Charter from
States General of Holland to
Settlers on the Hudson.

Edited by
MARTIN G. BRUMBAUGH, A. M., Ph. D.
JOSEPH S. WALTON, Ph. D.



PHILADELPHIA:
CHRISTOPHER SOWER COMPANY,
614 ARCH STREET.

PREFATORY NOTE.

The increasing demand for original historical documents, illustrating the growth and development of American institutions, has induced the editors to issue the "LIBERTY BELL LEAFLETS."

That the student may see history through the eyes of its makers, this series will present, from time to time, important original papers which are by reason of expense or rarity not readily accessible.

That the student may not be encumbered with irrelevant matter, and that the expense may be reduced to a minimum, the leaflet form has been adopted, and all extraneous matter eliminated.

There are already some admirable publications illustrative of the influence of colonial charters upon the state and local governments lying within the extreme northern belt of migration westward. For this reason the series will deal more largely with papers typical of proprietary influence; and of the county-township system of local government as it impressed itself upon that belt of western migration which sprang from the middle colonies and spread to the Pacific.

2nd COPY
1898.

LIBERTY BELL LEAFLETS

Translations and Reprints of Original
Historical Documents.

NOV 24 1898

Staten general

Netherlands (United provinces, 1581-1795)

No. 1.—Inducements Offered by the States General
of Holland from 1614 to 1626 to those
Merchants and Navigators who would
discover New Countries; together with
the Charter of Privileges Granted to the
Patroons.

EDITED BY

MARTIN G. BRUMBAUGH, A. M., PH. D.

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EDITORS' NOTES.

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The activity of the Dutch Traders, in the region reported by Henry Hudson at an early date, aroused the interest of the States General of Holland.

Tempting inducements were held out to the merchants, traders, and sailors for the discovery of new lands.

These inducements led to the Dutch explorations in the region between the "South" (Delaware) river and the "Fresh" (Connecticut) river.

The papers here presented illustrate this activity by the Dutch.

The Charter, granted by the States General to the Dutch on the Hudson, shows the efforts of the Dutch Government to establish an aristocratic feudal government in a new land, among a people who cherished an abiding love for liberty and democracy.

These papers may be studied with profit by students desiring to secure an insight into the genesis of Middle States Government.

Resolution in Favor of Those who Discover New Countries.

[COPY OF A RESOLUTION OF THE STATES OF HOLLAND AND
WESTVRIESLAND, DATED 20TH MARCH, 1614.]

ON THE Remonstrance of divers Merchants wishing to discover New unknown Rivers, Countries and Places not sought for (nor resorted to) heretofore from these parts, it is, after previous mature deliberation, resolved that the Generality shall accord and grant, that whoever shall resort to and discover such new Lands and Places, shall alone be privileged to make four Voyages to such Lands and Places from these Countries, exclusive of every other person, until the aforesaid four Voyages shall have been completed: it being well understood, that on the return of the first discovery or exploration, a pertinent Report shall be rendered to the Lords States General, in order that their High Mightinesses may then order and determine, according to the distance and circumstances of the Countries or Places, within what time the aforesaid four voyages must be concluded: and also with this understanding, that whosoever shall find, discover and explore the same Countries and Places about the same time or season, shall be admitted, at the discretion and on the decision of the Lords States General, to prosecute the aforesaid voyages in company; provided also that this concession shall not prejudice previous concessions or grants.

General Charter for Those who Discover any New Passages, Havens, Countries or Places.

[FROM THE ACT BOOK OF THE STATES GENERAL IN THE ROYAL ARCHIVES AT THE HAGUE.]

THE States General of the United Netherlands. To all those who shall see these presents, or hear them read, Greeting. Be it Known, Whereas We understand it would be honorable, serviceable and profitable to this Country, and for the promotion of its prosperity, as well as for the maintenance of seafaring people, that the good Inhabitants should be excited and encouraged to employ and occupy themselves in seeking out and discovering Passages, Havens, Countries and places that have not before now been discovered nor frequented; and being informed by some Traders that they intend with God's merciful help, by diligence labor, danger and expence, to employ themselves thereat, as they expect to derive a handsome profit therefrom. if it pleased Us to privilege, charter and favor them, that they alone might resort and sail to and frequent the passages, havens, countries and places to be by them newly found and discovered, for six voyages as a compensation for their outlays, trouble and risk, with interdiction to all, directly or indirectly to resort or sail to, or frequent the said passages, havens, countries or places, before and until the first discoverers and finders thereof shall have completed the aforesaid six voyages: Therefore, We having duly weighed the aforesaid matter and finding, as hereinbefore stated, the said undertaking to be laudable, honorable and serviceable for the prosperity of the United Provinces, And wishing that the experiment be free and open to all and every of the Inhabitants of this country, have invited and do hereby invite, all and every of the Inhabitants of the United Netherlands to the aforesaid search, and, therefore, have granted

and consented, grant and consent hereby that whosoever any new Passages, Havens, Countries or Places shall from now henceforward discover, shall alone resort to the same or cause them to be frequented for four voyages, without any other person directly or indirectly sailing, frequenting or resorting, from the United Netherlands, to the said newly discovered and found passages, havens, countries or places, until the first discoverer and finder shall have made or cause to be made the said four voyages, on pain of confiscation of the goods and ships wherewith the contrary attempt shall be made, and a fine of Fifty thousand Netherlands Ducats, to the profit of the aforesaid finder or discoverer. Well understanding that the discoverer on completion of the first voyage, shall be holden within fourteen days after his return from said Voyage, to render unto Us a pertinent Report of the aforesaid discoveries and adventures, in order, on hearing thereof We may adjudge and declare, according to circumstances and distance, within what time the aforesaid four voyages must be completed, Provided that We do not understand to prejudice hereby or in any way to diminish our former Charters and Concessions: And, if one or more Companies find and discover in or about one time or one year, such new Passages, Countries, havens or Places, the same shall conjointly enjoy this Our Grant and Privilege; and in case any differences or questions concerning these, or otherwise should arise or occur from this our Concession, the same shall be decided by Us, whereby each shall have to regulate himself. And in order that this Our Concession shall be made known equally to all We have ordered that these be published and affixed at the usual places in the United Countries. Thus done at the Assembly of the Lords States General at the Hague the XXVIIth of March XVIc and fourteen. Was papapheered—J. van Oldenbarnevelt vt. Understood—By order of the Lords States General.

Signed C. AERSSEN.

Grant of Exclusive Trade to New Netherland.

[FROM THE MINUTE ON A HALF SHEET OF PAPER, IN THE
ROYAL ARCHIVES IN THE HAGUE; FILE, LOOPENDE.]

THE States General of the United Netherlands to all
to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Whereas, Gerrit Jacobz Witssen, antient Burgo-
master of the City Amsterdam, Jonas Witssen,
Simon Morrissen, owners of the Ship named the Little
Fox, whereof Jan de With has been Skipper; Hans
Hongers, Paulus Pelgrom, Lambrecht van Tweenhuyzen,
owners of the two ships named the Tiger and the Fortune,
whereof Aedriaen Block and Hendrick Corstiaenssen were
Skippers; Arnolt van Lybergen, Wessel Schenck, Hans
Claessen and Berent Sweertssen, owners of the Ship named
the Nightingale, whereof Thys Volckertssen was Skipper,
Merchants of the aforesaid City Amsterdam, and Pieter
Clementssen Brouwer, Jan Clementssen Kies, and Cornelis
Volckertssen, Merchants of the City of Hoorn, owners of the
Ship named the Fortuyn, whereof Cornelis Jacobssen May
was Skipper, all now associated in one Company, have re-
spectfully represented to us, that they, the petitioners, after
great expenses and damages by loss of ships and other dan-
gers, had, during the present year, discovered and found
with the above named five ships, certain New Lands situate
in America, between New France and Virginia, the Sea
coasts whereof lie between forty and forty-five degrees of
Latitude, and now called New Netherland: And whereas
We did, in the month of March last, for the promotion and

increase of Commerce, cause to be published a certain General Consent and Charter setting forth, that whosoever should thereafter discover new havens, lands, places or passages, might frequent, or cause to be frequented, for four voyages, such newly discovered and found places, passages, havens, or lands, to the exclusion of all others from visiting or frequenting the same from the United Netherlands, until the said first discoverers and finders shall, themselves, have completed the said four Voyages, or caused the same to be done within the time prescribed for that purpose, under the penalties expressed in the said Octroy &c. they request that we would accord to them due Act of the aforesaid Octroy in the usual form:

Which being considered, We, therefore, in Our Assembly having heard the pertinent Report of the Petitioners, relative to the discoveries and finding of the said new Countries between the above named limits and degrees, and also of their adventures, have consented and granted, and by these presents do consent and grant, to the said Petitioners now united into one Company, that they shall be privileged exclusively to frequent or cause to be visited, the above newly discovered lands, situate in America between New France and Virginia, whereof the Sea coasts lie between the fortieth and forty-fifth degrees of Latitude, now named New Netherland, as can be seen by a Figurative Map hereunto annexed, and that for four Voyages within the term of three Years, commencing the first of January, Sixteen hundred and fifteen next ensuing, or sooner, without it being permitted to any other person from the United Netherlands, to sail to, navigate or frequent the said newly discovered lands, havens or places, either directly or indirectly, within the said three Years, on pain of Confiscation of the vessel and Cargo wherewith infraction hereof shall be attempted, and a fine of Fifty thousand Netherland Ducats for the benefit of said discoverers or finders; provided, nevertheless, that by these

presents We do not intend to prejudice or diminish any of our former grants or Charters; And it is also Our intention, that if any disputes or differences arise from these Our Concessions, they shall be decided by Ourselves. We therefore expressly command all Governors, Justices, Officers, Magistrates and inhabitants of the aforesaid United Countries that they allow the said Company peaceably and quietly to enjoy the whole benefit of this Our grant and consent, ceasing all contradictions and obstacles to the contrary. For such we have found to appertain to the public service. Given under Our Seal, paraph and signature of our Secretary at the Hague the xith of October 1614.

Captain Hendricksen's Report of his Discoveries in New Netherland.

[FROM THE ORIGINAL IN THE ROYAL ARCHIVES AT THE
HAGUE; FILE, ENTITLED LOOPENDE.]

REPORT of Captain Cornelis Hendricxzn of Mun-
nickendam to the High and Mighty Lords States
General of the Free, United Netherland Provinces
made on the xviiiith August A^o 1616., of the coun-
tries, bay and three rivers situate in the Latitude from 38 to
40 degrees, by him discovered and found for and to the be-
hoof of his Owners and Directors of New Netherland, by
name Gerrit Jacob Witsen Burgomaster at Amsterdam,
Jonas Witsen, Lambrecht van Tweenhuyzen, Paulus Pel-
grom and others of their Company.

First, he hath discovered for his aforesaid Masters and
Directors certain lands, a bay and three rivers situate be-
tween 38 and 40 degrees. And did there trade with the In-
habitants; said trade consisting of Sables, Furs, Robes and
other skins.

He hath found the said Country full of trees, to wit:—
Oaks, hickory and pines; which trees were, in some places,
covered with vines.

He hath seen, in the said country Bucks and does, turkeys
and partridges.

He hath found the climate of the said Country very tem-
perate, judging it to be as temperate as that of this country,
Holland. He also traded for, and bought from the inhabi-
tants, the Minquaes, three persons, being people belonging
to this Company;

which three persons were employed in the service of the
Mohawks and Machicans; giving for them kettles, beads
and merchandize.

Read August 19, 1616.

Mr. Peter Schagen to the States General; the Island of Manhattans Purchased.

[FROM THE ORIGINAL IN THE ROYAL ARCHIVES AT THE
HAGUE; FILE, ENTITLED WEST INDIE.]

HIGH and Mighty Lords:

Yesterday, arrived here the Ship the Arms of Amsterdam, which sailed from New Netherland, out of the River Mauritius, on the 23rd September. They report that our people are in good heart and live in peace there; the Women also have borne some children there. They have purchased the Island Manhattes from the Indians for the value of 60 guilders; 'tis 11,000 morgens in size. They had all their grain sowed by the middle of May, and reaped by the middle of August. They send thence samples of summer grain; such as wheat, rye, barley, oats, buckwheat, canary seed, beans and flax.

The cargo of the aforesaid ship is:—

7246	Beaver skins.
178½	Otter skins.
675	Otter skins.
48	Minck skins.
36	Wild cat skins.
33	Mincks.
34	Rat skins.

Considerable Oak timber and Hickory.

Herewith, High and Mighty Lords, be commended to the mercy of the Almighty.

In Amsterdam the 5th November, Ad 1626. Your High Mightinesses' obedient,

Received 7th November, 1626.

(Signed) P. SCHAGEN.

The address was as follows:

High and Mighty Lords,

My Lords the States General at the Hague.

Patent to Kiliaen Van Rensselaer for a Tract of Land on Hudson's River.

[FROM THE AUTHENTIC TRANSCRIPT IN THE ROYAL ARCHIVES AT THE HAGUE; FILE, WEST INDIE.] (L. S.)

ANNO 1630, adi 13th of August. We, the Director and Council of New Netherland, residing on the Island Manhatas and in Fort Amsterdam, under the authority of their High Mightinesses the Lords' States General of the United Netherlands and the incorporated West India Company, Chamber at Amsterdam, do hereby acknowledge and declare, that on this day, the date under written, before us appeared and presented themselves in their proper persons: Kottomack, Nawanemit Albantzeene, Sagiskwa and Kanaomack, owners and proprietors of their respective parcels of land, extending up the River, South and North, from said Fort unto a little south of Momeninnes Castle, to the aforesaid proprietors, belonging jointly and in common, and the aforesaid Nawanemit's particular land called Semesseerse, lying on the East Bank opposite Castle Island off unto the above mentioned Fort: Item, from Pentanock, the Millstream, away North to Negagouse, in extent about three miles, and declared freely and advisedly for and on account of certain parcels of Cargoes, which they acknowledge to have received in their hands and power before the execution hereof, and, by virtue and bill of sale, to hereby transport, convey and make over to the Mr. Kiliaen van Rensselaer, absent, and for whom We, ex officio and with due stipulation, accept the same: namely: the respective parcels of land hereinbefore specified, with the timber, appendencies and dependencies thereof, together with all the action, right and jurisdiction to them the

grantors, conjointly or severally belonging, constituting and surrogating the said Mr. Rensselaer in their stead, state and right, real and actual possession thereof, and at the same time giving him full, absolute and irrevocable power, authority and special command to hold, in quiet possession, cultivation, occupancy and use, tanquam actor et procurator in rem suam ac propriam, the land aforesaid, acquired by said Mr. Van Rensselaer, or those who may hereafter acquire his interest; also, to dispose of, do with and alienate it, as he or others should or might do with his other and own Lands and domains acquired by good and lawful title, without the grantors therein retaining, reserving or holding any, the smallest part, right, action or authority whether of property, command or jurisdiction, but rather, promising this their conveyance and whatever may by virtue thereof be done, not only forever to hold fast and irrevocable to observe and to fulfill, but also to give security for the surrender of the aforesaid land, obligans et renuncians a bona fide. In testimony is this confirmed by our usual signature, with the ordinary seal thereunto depending. Done at the aforesaid Island Manahatas and Fort Amsterdam, on the day and year aforesaid. Signed, Peter Minuit, Director; Pieter Bylvelt, Jacob Elbertss, Wissinck, Jan Jassen Brouwer, Symon Dirckss. Pos, Reyner Harmensen, Jan Lampe, Sheriff.

There was, besides: This Conveyance written with mine own hand is, in consequence of the Secretary's absence, executed in my presence on the thirteenth day of August, XVIc, and thirty, as above. Signed, Lenart Cole, Deputy Secretary.

After collating with the Original, dated, signed and sealed as above, this Copy is found to agree with it. Amsterdam, the 5th September, 1672.

In testimony, (Signed)

ADRIAN LOCK,
Notaris Publ.

1672.

New Project of Freedoms and Exemptions.

[FROM THE M. S., WITHOUT DATE, IN THE ROYAL ARCHIVES
AT THE HAGUE ; FILE, ENTITLED WEST INDIE,
1630-1635.]

FREEDOMS, Privileges and Exemptions, granted by the High and Mighty Lords States General, ex plenitudine potestatis, to all persons of condition inhabitants of these countries, to be qualified thereunto by their High Mightinesses, as Lords and Patroons of New Netherland, for the purpose of planting Colonies and introducing cattle there, all for the advancement of the Incorporated West India Company, and for the benefit of the inhabitants of these countries.

Persons admissible thereunto by their High Mightinesses, being inclined to plant Colonies in New Netherland, shall be permitted to send thither, by all of the West India Company's ships and yachts going thither, three or four persons, to examine the state of things there, on condition of paying for board and passage out and home six stuyvers a day, and those wishing to eat in the cabin, twelve stuyvers.

II.

And in case of offensive or defensive operations, they must lend assistance the same as others; and if any of the enemy's ships be captured, they shall also receive their share, pro rata, according to each person's quality; to wit, those not eating in the cabin the same as seamen and those who board

in the cabin, a share equal to that of the superior officers, calculated one with another.

* * * * *

IV.

And for Lords and Patroons of New Netherland shall be acknowledged those who will, within six years from this time (exclusive of the year of admission) undertake to plant in New Netherland a Colonie of forty-eight souls, on pain, in case of palpable neglect, of being deprived, at their High Mightinesses' discretion, of their acquired Freedoms, Privileges and Exemptions.

V.

But every one is notified that the Company reserves unto itself the Island of Manhattes, Fort, Orange, with the lands and islands appertaining thereunto, Staten Island, the land of Achassemes, Arasick and Hobokina, together with the Colonie of Swanendale.

* * * * *

VIII.

And Patroons of New Netherland may, by Deputy, at the places where they will plant their Colonies, extend their limits six miles along the sea coast or on both sides of a navigable river, and so deep landward in, as the Lords and Patroons shall demand, without any one approaching within seven or eight miles of them, against their will.

IX.

And the first occupants shall not be prejudiced in their acquired right, but forever preserve the command over such bays, rivers and islands, as they shall have settled.

X.

And in propriety forever and always possess all the land situate within the Patroons' limits, together with all the fruits, superficies, minerals, rivers and fountains thereof, for them, their heirs or assigns, with high, middle and low jurisdiction, tithes, fishing, fowling, wind and [water] mills and all other privileges, preeminences and rights, to be holden as free, allodial and patrimonial property.

XI.

And should the Patroons come to prosper in their Colonies, so far as to be able to found one or more towns or cities, they shall have authority to appoint officers and magistrates therein: enact laws and police, and make use of the titles and arms of their Colonies, according to their will and pleasure.

XII.

The Patroons shall have the privilege of using for their own benefit, all adjoining lands, rivers and forests, until they shall be taken up by other Patroons.

XIII.

The Patroons shall provisionally furnish proper instructions to their Colonies, in order that they be ruled and appointed, both in police and justice, conformably to the mode of government observed here.

XIV.

And they are empowered to send in the Company's ships, all their people and property bound thither, on paying for board as is hereinbefore stated in Article I^o; for freight of the merchandise, 5 per 100 cash on what the said goods have cost in this country; not including herein, however cattle and agricultural implements, which the Company shall convey over for nothing; wherefore they shall reserve the

fourth part of all ships and yachts which will sail thither; but the Patroons shall appropriate such vacant places for their fodder, they providing everything necessary for the maintenance of the cattle.

* * * * *

XVII.

The Patroons of New Netherland shall have the privilege of sailing and trading along the whole coast, from Florida unto Newfoundland, and to all the Wild islands of the West Indies.

XVIII.

The Patroons shall likewise be at liberty, everywhere around the coast of New Netherland and the places adjacent thereunto, to trade their acquired goods for all sorts of wares and merchandises to be there, without any exception.

XIX.

On arrival of such wares here in the ships of the West India Company, there shall be paid for the freight of each merchantable skin, whether otter or beaver, one guilder; and on all bulky articles, such as pitch, tar, ashes, timber, grain, fish, salt, rosin or such like, ten guilders per last (estimated at 4000 lbs.), on condition that the Company's seamen shall be obliged to wheel and bring the salt on ship board; with this understanding, that the Patroons' own ships shall be always preferred, and on coming to this country, shall enjoy all such benefits and Freedoms, as are granted to the Company.

XX.

All wares not enumerated in the preceding article, and not being bulky articles (last waeren) shall pay for freight 1 guilder per hundred weight, and wines, brandies, vinegars, verjuice, 10 guilders per barrel.

XXI.

Their High Mightinesses promise the Patroons not to impose on their Colonies, any Custom, Toll, Excise, Impost or other tax, but allow them to enjoy such Freedoms and Exemptions as are granted, or shall hereafter be granted by Charter to the Company.

XXII.

No person shall be at liberty to take from the service of the Patroons any of their Colonists, whether man, woman, son, daughter, maid-servant, or man-servant, even though solicited by the Colonists themselves to receive them (except by written consent of their Patroons), during the term of years for which they are bound to their Patroons: after the expiration of which time, the Patroons shall be at liberty to send back to this country the Colonists who leave their service, and then first discharge them; and if any Colonist run away to another Patroon, or resume his freedom contrary to his contract, other Patroons of New Netherland shall be bound, and do promise their High Mightinesses, to cause him, as far as lies in his power, to be surrendered unto the hands of his Patroon or his Commissary, in order that proceedings may be instituted against such Colonist, according to circumstances.

XXIII.

The Patroons discovering shores, bays or places adapted to Fishing, or the manufacture of Salt, may take possession of them, and have them worked in perfect property, to the exclusion of all others.

XXIV.

They shall be privileged, also, to send their ships every where to fish, and so to go, with what has been caught, to all neutrals and friends of this State.

XXV.

And if any Colonist belonging to a Patroon happen to discover minerals, precious stones, crystals, marble pearl fishery or such like, they shall remain the Patroon's property, provided he allow such discoverer, as a premium therefore, so much as the Patroon shall have stipulated for that purpose.

XXVI.

Their High Mightinesses, together with the Incorporated West India Company, promise to assist the Patroons' Colonists against all foreign and domestic wars and violence, with whatever force they have in, and shall bring to, New Netherland.

XXVII.

The Patroons of New Netherland, shall be bound to purchase from the Lords Sachems in New Netherland, the soil where they propose to plant their Colonies, and shall acquire such right thereunto as they will agree for with the said Sachems.

XXVIII.

The Patroons also, particularly exert themselves to find speedy means to maintain a Clergyman and Schoolmaster, in order that Divine Service and zeal for religion may be planted in that country; and send, at first, a Comforter of the sick thither.

XXIX.

The respective Patroons shall be privileged to keep an agent at the Island Manhattes, who shall attend as a member of Council there, and have seat and vote at all the meetings and deliberations, in order thereby to be able to promote the necessary protection of the Colonies.

XXX.

Their High Mightinesses shall exert themselves to provide the Patroons with persons bound to service, who shall

be obliged to serve out their bounden time, in all obedience, for their board and clothing only, which being done, on bringing to this country a certificate thereof from the Patroons of their Commissaries, such persons shall be here restored to their former state and freedom.

XXXI.

In like manner, the Incorporated West India Company shall allot to each Patroon twelve Black men and women out of the prizes in which Negroes shall be found, for the advancement of the Colonies in New Netherland.

XXXII.

The Incorporated West India Company undertakes to maintain the fort and stronghold on the Island of Manhattan, in good defence and garrison, and to allow the Patroons to enjoy peaceably and quietly these Exemptions, Privileges and Freedoms.

XXXIII.

All private and poor people (onvermogen personen) are excluded from these Exemptions, Privileges and Freedoms, and are not allowed to purchase any lands or grounds from the Sachems or Indians in New Netherland, but must repair under the jurisdiction of the respective Lords Patroons. Thus and enacted.

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